(c) BIS does not check each consignment of materials that is being imported but grants the licence to the manufacturer for making the products with BIS standard mark on self certification basis. The licence is granted to the overseas manufacturers after satisfying that the manufacturer has the requisite manufacturing and testing capabilities and also that the manufacturer agrees to follow a scheme of testing and inspection to ensure that the products bearing marks are conforming to the relevant Indian standards on consistent basis. The BIS has conducted sample tests for its foreign licenses during 2001-02 and 2002-03 as below.

Product	2001-2002	2003-03
Cement	8	2
Mineral Water/Packaged Water	2	3
Steel Tubes	1	4
Galvanised Plain and corrugated Steel Sheets	-	2
Cold Rolled Carbon Steel Sheets	-	3

(d) Only in respect of 135 specified products BIS certification has been mandatory. Without such certification imports are not permitted. The data on all imports are available in the publication, "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Vol.-II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S), copies of the same are available in the library of the Parliament.

Export of gems and jewellery

1858. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export of gems and jewellery have recorded a rise in the previous years;

(b) the worth of export during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to further increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Export of Gem and Jewellery in the last three years compared to the year 1998-99, have recorded a rise.

(b) Exports of Gem and Jewellery for the last three years compared to the exports of Gem and Jewellery during the 1998-99 are as follows:

(Value in US $ Million)

Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2002-02
C&P Diamonds	4749.42	6441.72	6174.74	5892.20
Gold Jewellery	870.50	797.65	904.46	1087.21
Other Items	321.60	321.10	295.55	326.34
Total Exports	5941.52	7560.47	7374.75	7305.75

Source: DGCI and S, Calcutta, Website http://164.100.9.245/eidb/Default.asp

(c) The Government and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the representative body of the trade sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, have taken several steps to increase the exports of gem and jewellery and enhance competitiveness in the world markets. Some of these are given below:—

* Ministry of Commerce and Industry have prepared a Medium Term Export Strategy for various sectors including Gem and Jewellery sector;
* The GJEPC and the Govt. constantly explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;
* Government have provided funds to set up the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture;
* The GJEPC promotes the image of Indian diamonds and jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;
* The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants. It also deputes Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs; and
* The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made jewellery.

In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002:—

* Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolished.
* Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7% Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.
* Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through Hyderabad and Jaipur airports as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata,Chennai and Bangalore.

Fall in production of tea

1859. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of tea in the country has declined by 38 million kg. in 2002 recording a fall of about 815 million kg. as against 853 million in 2001 and the crop in South India during 2002 was estimated at 192 million kg. and a similar fall was expected in North India also;

(b) if so, the reasons for fall in the production; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The production of tea in India during 2002 is estimated at 826.16 million kg. as against 853.71 million kg. achieved in 2001, indicating a decline of 27.55 million kg. during 2002 over 2001. The crop in South India during 2002 is estimated at 194.41 million kg as against 202.95 million kg. achieved during 2001. The crop in North India during 2002 is estimated at 631.75 million kg as against 650.76 million kg. achieved during 2001.

(b) The decline in production during 2002 over 2001 was mainly due to agro-climatic conditions.